



Building Bridges in Cambodia

U.S. Army uses SPS for Humanitarian Mission Support

A Great Aid for Humanitarian Projects

The Standard Procurement System (SPS) has helped manage hundreds of humanitarian missions with great success. With its efficiency, it has changed lives for the better by helping U.S. contracting professionals procure supplies and services faster than ever.

An automated contracting system, SPS is the first – and only – department-wide, standardized business system used in the Department of Defense (DoD) for humanitarian mission support.

SPS: A Logistics Multiplier

“Under the old system, it would take about 2.5 hours to get a purchase order into a vendor’s hands. Now, they’ve got it down to 10 minutes. It gives the vendor lead time to plan and your customer is a lot happier because he gets his product quicker. From my standpoint, it lets me manage the commodities much better.”

– MAJ Kenneth Buck, Logistician, Army National Guard
(Active Guard Reserve)

Cambodia: A Humanitarian Success Story

On a humanitarian mission, a hardworking team of U.S. logisticians, contracting professionals and financial managers took on a huge project: to build a bridge in Cambodia, desperately needed by the locals who depended on it as their link to commerce.



The Army Team that used SPS to help build the Chamnoan Bridge on which they’re standing: (from left to right) Mr. Ivan Keogh, LTC Jim D’Arienzo, MAJ Mark Johnson, and MSG Rick Freuh

The Chamnoan Bridge

- Linked isolated villages in a remote section of Cambodia
- Was a 55-meter, rickety, wooden structure patched together with makeshift boards nailed over rotting areas
- Was a disaster waiting to happen: over the years, holes in the bridge were patched with rocks and gravel, increasing the dead load on top of the support pillars



MAJ Mark Johnson and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen at the Chamnoan Bridge Dedication Ceremony in August 2003.

Using SPS, MAJ Mark Johnson, a contracting officer with the U.S. Army Pacific Command, spearheaded the procurement arm of the project. He worked with Army logisticians to determine the services and supplies needed for the project, used SPS to write and award contracts to local vendors and then electronically sent the data through SPS to DoD financial managers... all within minutes.

Since SPS is automated and interfaces with more than 30 systems across DoD, procuring supplies and services goes faster. And when managing a humanitarian project, faster procurement makes all the difference in the world.

Using SPS, MAJ Johnson and his team

- Kept the project on budget, within schedule and on target with efficient contingency contracting
- Purchased materials and labor from local vendors – faster and more efficiently
- Procured steel quickly during a time when prices were soaring, which saved money
- Changed the lives of thousands by giving locals a new, safe route for transportation

A Medal for the U.S. Army, Humanitarian Missions and SPS

Cambodian citizens were more than impressed with the new bridge. They were incredibly grateful. Having this bridge meant safer passage and an easier route for buying products from other areas of Cambodia. In fact, Cambodia's prime minister awarded the team his country's national medal for their efforts.

"The bridge is an improved link from one place to another in order to alleviate poverty. ... This is the real value of humanitarian assistance: for rice assistance, we can live for a short time, but bridges of such, we can use it for even 100 years. ...Again, let me thank the U.S. Government."

– Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, August 2003



MAJ Mark Johnson (third from left) and his team at the Chamnoan Bridge Dedication Ceremony.

More About SPS

- Used by 23,000+ contracting professionals to purchase more than \$48B in goods and services in FY03
- Reduces paperwork, increases e-business and e-logistics
- Will replace 70+ legacy systems, offering huge cost savings, efficiency and consistency
- Increases asset visibility, reduces the military footprint, is a logistics multiplier

SPS Makes a Difference in Humanitarian Missions

- More time for customer and vendor support
- Faster placement of orders
- Less paperwork
- Up-to-date vendor database

SPS in other USARPAC-supported Humanitarian Missions

- | | |
|------------|--------------------|
| • Cambodia | • Madagascar |
| • Thailand | • Tonga Bangladesh |
| • Vietnam | • Indonesia |
| • Fiji | • Phillipines |

SPS: A Time-Saver

"SPS allows me to do things simultaneously vice sequentially. It frees me up to work with customers and vendors to ensure tracking is on target. And that's what's really important: getting my customers what they need, when they need it. SPS makes it happen."

*– MAJ Mark Johnson, Contracting Officer,
U.S. Army Pacific Command*

SPS

the cornerstone of DoD's end-to-end acquisition process.

For more information about SPS and how it can make a difference, contact:

SPS Joint Program Management Office

4114 Legato Road, Fairfax, VA 22033
(703) 460-1490

